

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 18 are amended. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 18, 19 and 21-24 are pending.

I. Imamura in view of Sumner

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 4, claims 1-4, 6-10, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,905 to Imamura et al in view of Sumner. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not discuss or suggest "a water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 1 and does not discuss or suggest "a water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 18.

First, Imamura does not discuss or suggest that a water supplier supplies wash water directly from the water supplier into a water tub and directly from the water supplier into a rotary drum. The water supply inlet 22 supplies water only directly into the water tub 2. While the Applicants understand that water is supplied directly from the tub into the drum, after being supplied to the tub, the water is not directly supplied into the drum from a water supplier. The tub cannot be considered to be a portion of the water supplied (which the Examiner alleges corresponds with the water supply inlet 22).

Further, in contrast to the Examiner's assertion that in the instant application, water would be considered to be injected into the drum first, and then the tub, in the present invention, the water supplier 30 includes a pipe 33 which supplies water directly from the water supplier 30, including the pipe 33, into the water tub 11. In addition, the water supplier 30 includes a pipe 35 which supplies water directly from the water supplier 30, including the pipe 35, into the rotary drum 20. Thus, in the present invention, it is clear that the two pipes allow water to be supplied directly from the water supplier 30 into the water tub 11, and separately, into the rotary drum 20.

The water supply inlet 22 of Imamura does not supply water directly from the water supply inlet 22 into the rotary drum 3. The water that is supplied into the rotary drum 3 is first supplied into the water tub 2.

In addition, Imamura does not suggest that the water supply inlet 22 includes a first pipe and a second pipe, where the first pipe supplies wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and the second pipe supplies wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum. Imamura does not suggest the use of separate pipes to supply water directly to both the water tub and the rotary drum.

Sumner fails to make up for the deficiencies in Imamura. Further, the motivation cited by the Examiner does not suggest why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine an inclined rotary drum with perforation holes of Sumner with a washing machine including a water supply inlet that supplies water only directly into a water tub of Imamura.

Therefore, as the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not discuss or suggest, "a water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 1 and does not discuss or suggest "a water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 18, claims 1 and 18 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 19 and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 18 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 9 recites, "a water temperature sensor to detect temperature of the wash water contained in the water tub, wherein the controller controls the heater to heat the contained wash water in stages until the water temperature detected by the water temperature sensor reaches a set temperature." Imamura does not discuss or suggest that the contained wash water is in stages until a water temperature detected by the water temperature sensor reaches a set temperature. Therefore, claims 2-4, 6-10, 19 and 21 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Kwon in view of Sumner

In the Office Action, at page 4, numbered paragraph 8, claims 1-4, 6, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,516,484 to Kwon in view Sumner. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of the

teachings of Kwon and Sumner does not suggest all the features of amended independent claims 1 and 18.

First, Kwon does not discuss or suggest that a water supplier supplies wash water directly from the water supplier into a water tub and directly from the water supplier into a rotary drum. Kwon discusses only that rinsing water is fed into a tilted washing tub 60 to perform rinsing. However, Kwon does not discuss or suggest that a water supplier supplies water directly into both outer tub 61 and the inner tub 65, where the water is supplied directly from a water supplier. The water that is supplied into the inner tub 62 is first supplied into the outer tub 61.

Second, Kwon does not discuss or suggest a water supplier that includes a first and second pipe, the first pipe supplying water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and the second pipe supplying wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum.

Sumner fails to make up for the deficiencies in Kwon. Further, the motivation cited by the Examiner does not suggest why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine an inclined rotary drum with perforation holes of Sumner with a washing machine including a water supply that supplies water only directly into a water tub of Kwon.

Therefore, as the combination of the teachings of Kwon and Sumner does not discuss or suggest, "a water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 1 and does not discuss or suggest "a water supplier including at least a first pipe supplying the wash water directly from the first pipe into the water tub and a second pipe supplying the wash water directly from the second pipe into the rotary drum," as recited in amended independent claim 18, claims 1 and 18 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6, 19 and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 18 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 19 recites, "a drum driver, to rotate the rotary drum, wherein the drum driver is controlled by the controller." Therefore, claims 2-4, 6, 19 and 21 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Imamura in view of Sumner and Noguchi

In the Office Action, at page 5, numbered paragraph 1, claims 11 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imamura in view of Sumner and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,122,843 to Noguchi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 18, the combination of the teachings of Imamura and Sumner does not suggest all the features of claims 1 and 18. Noguchi fails to make up for the deficiencies in Imamura and Sumner. Therefore, claims 1 and 18 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon.

Claims 11 and 22-24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 18 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 11 recites, "a storage unit to store information about the set temperature corresponding to the washing course, wherein the controller recognizes the set temperature by searching the storage unit." Therefore, claims 11 and 22-24 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 18 are amended. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 18, 19 and 21-24 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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